## Message Text

## CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /089 W

-----150845Z 044930 /13

R 150657Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9300

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL LAGOS 1746

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI, US, IS, UN

SUBJECT: OBADANJO'S COMMENTS TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG RE ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA

1. NEAR THE END OF THEIR LENGTHY CONVERSATION IN LAGOS FEBRUARY 10, OBADANJO TOLD AMBASSADOR YOUNG HE WAS DISTURBED BY THE APPARENTLY INCREASING SOUTH AFRICAN/ISRAELI CONNECTION, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO SUPPLY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT. HE ASKED WHETHER THE US COULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. YOUNG SAID WE WERE SIMILARLY CONCERNED BUT WOULD HAVE TO KEEP IN MIND THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT COMPLICATING OR INHIBITING EVIDENT CURRENT MOMENTUM TOWARD A SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HE ALSO NOTED THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN SOUTH AFRICA. HE THOUGHT THE RECENT OVERTURES TO ISRAEL FROM THE IVORY COAST WERE HELPFUL CONFIDENTIAL

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IN THE SENSE THAT ISRAEL COULD SEE THEY WERE NOT TOTALLY ISOLATED OR TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONNECTION FOR FRIENDS AND ECONOMIC INTEROURSE. OBADANJO SAID NIGERIA WAS NOT UNDER INFLUENCE OF "OUR ARAB BROTHERS" WITH REGARD TO ISRAEL. HE SAID NIGERIA ALREADY HAD ISRAELI BUSINESSES IN NIGERIA AND WOULD WELCOME MORE. GARBA SAID NIGERIA HAD TRIED TO MODERATE BLACK AFRICAN PRESSURES TO PUNISH ISRAEL AND WOULD CONTINUE TO TRY TO DO

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## Message Attributes

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Subject: OBADANJO\'S COMMENTS TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG RE ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA

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Type: TE

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Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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